

What is claimed:

1. A method of controlling particle size of an emulsion polymer including the step of controlling the amount of in-process monomer present during the polymerization reaction.

5 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of in-process monomer is less than about 8 %wt, based on the total weight of the reaction mixture.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the level of in-process monomer is less than about 7 %wt, based on the total weight of the reaction mixture.

10 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the level of in-process monomer is less than about 5 %wt, based on the total weight of the reaction mixture.

15 5. The method of claim 1 wherein emulsion polymer comprises as monomeric units one or more compounds selected from (meth)acrylic acid, (meth)acrylamides, alkyl (meth)acrylates, vinyl aromatic monomers, vinyl alcohol esters, nitrogen-containing ring compounds and their thio-analogs, or substituted ethylene monomers.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the emulsion polymer comprises as monomeric units one or more compounds selected from (meth)acrylic acid, (meth)acrylamide, alkyl (meth)acrylate, vinyl aromatic monomer or vinyl alcohol ester.

20 7. A method of controlling standing monomer level in a polymerization reaction including the steps of a) detecting coolant temperature at a cooling jacket inlet; b) detecting coolant temperature at a cooling jacket outlet; c) detecting coolant flow rate; d) calculating $Q_{jdyn} (raw)$ and U_{raw} wherein U_{raw} is capped such that $U_{min} < U_{raw} < U_{max}$; e) obtaining U_{fit} by inputting U_{raw} into a low 25 pass first order filter; f) calculating a value for the dynamic jacket heat removal; g) calculating a heat release value of polymerization using the dynamic jacket heat removal value; h) comparing the calculated heat release value of polymerization to a target heat release value of polymerization; i) calculating the level of in-process monomer in the polymerization reaction; and j) controlling the

rate of monomer addition to the polymerization reaction such that a desired level of in-process monomer is maintained.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the polymerization reaction is an emulsion polymerization.

5 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the level of in-process monomer is less than about 8 %wt, based on the total weight of the reaction mixture.

10 10. An apparatus for controlling standing monomer level in a polymerization reaction including: a) temperature detecting means for detecting coolant temperature at a cooling jacket inlet; b) temperature detecting means for detecting coolant temperature at a cooling jacket outlet; c) detecting means for detecting coolant flow rate; d) computing means for calculating $Q_{jdyn} (raw)$ and U_{raw} wherein U_{raw} is capped such that $U_{min} < U_{raw} < U_{max}$; e) means for obtaining U_{fit} by inputting U_{raw} into a low pass first order filter; f) means for calculating a value for the dynamic jacket heat removal; g) means for calculating a heat

15 release value of polymerization using the dynamic jacket heat removal value; h) means for calculating a difference between the calculated heat release value of polymerization and a target heat release value of polymerization; i) computing means for determining the level of in-process monomer in the polymerization reaction; and j) controlling means for controlling the rate of monomer addition to the reactor such that a desired level of in-process monomer is maintained.

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